

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

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R 121400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3138

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0877

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: FINDINGS OF SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE CHITEPO
MURDER PUBLISHED

REF: 75 LUSAKA 569; 75 LUSAKA 476; 75 LUSAKA 463

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. ONE YEAR AFTER ITS FORMATION SPECIAG COMMISSION OF AFRICAN
JURISTS AND DIPLOMATS ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON MARCH 31,
1975 SUBMITTED REPORT ON ITS INVESTIGATION INTO MARCH 18, 1975
ASSASSINATION IN LUSAKA OF EX-ZANU LEADER HERBERT CHITEPO.
ZAMBIAN PRESS PUBLISHED REPORT'S CONCLUSIONS ON APRIL 10 AND FULL
TEXT BEING SERIALIZED IN ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL. FURTHER DETAILS BY
AIRGRAM.

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2. PREDICATABLY, THE SPECIAL COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT CHITEPO WAS MURDERED BY HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FORMER ZANU MOVEMENT AND BY MEMBERS OF MILITARY HIGH COMMAND OF ITS MILITARY ARM. THE REPORT NAMES FORMER ZANU DEFENCE CHIEF JOSIAH TONGOGARA, NOW UNDER DETENTION IN ZAMBIA, AS MAN WHO ACTUALLY PLOTTED, DIRECTED, AND SUPERVISED THE ASSASSINATION. MOTIVATION FOR THE MURDER WAS ATTRIBUTED TO TRIBAL CONFLICT WHICH HAD BROKEN OUT WITHIN ZANU IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AND WHICH LED TO MASS EXECUTIONS AT ZANU CAMPS OF MANYIKA TRIBAL MEMBERS BY KARANGA MILITARY LEADERSHIP. CHITEPO, A MANYIKA, WAS KILLED WHEN KARANGAS FEARED HE WOULD DIVULGE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE MURDERS, MOST OF WHICH COMMITTED ON ZAMBIAN SOIL.

3. OF EQUAL IF NOT GREATER IMPORTANCE TO ZAMBIAN GOVT WAS FACT THAT SPECIAL COMMISSION "FOUND NO SUBSTANCE IN THE ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST THE ZAMBIAN GOVT BY EX-ZANU LEADERSHIP THAT, BY ARRESTING THEM, THE GOVT WAS SABOTAGING THE ZIMBABWEAN REVOLUTION AND WANTED TO DESTROY ZANU AS A PARTY." REPORT CONCLUDES THAT ZAMBIA DETAINED TONGOGARA AND OTHER KARANGA EX-ZANU LEADERS ONLY AFTER RECEIVING INFORMATION THEY INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES PERPETRATED ON ZAMBIAN SOIL. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN NO FOREIGN DISSEM. COMMENT: REPORT AND ITS FINDINGS CLEARLY IMPLICATE TONGOGARA IN CHITEPO'S MURDER AND PRESUMABLY OPEN WAY FOR ZAMBIANS TO PROSECUTE HIM ON CRIMINAL CHARGES. THIS COULD BE POLITICALLY TRICKY FOR ZAMBIANS, IN VIEW OF ALLEGATIONS CERTAIN TO BE MADE BY KARANGA LEADERSHIP OF ZIMBABWE ANC MILITARY WING AND WHICH CONTINUES TO REGARD TONGOGARA AS ITS LEADER THAT KAUNDA IS TRYING TO ELIMINATE KARANGA ELEMENT SO AS TO ADVANCE LEADERSHIP AMBITIONS OF JOSHUA NKOMO. BY ASSOCIATING OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WITH FINDINGS OF SPECIAL COMMISSION, ZAMBIANS HAD HOPED TO UNDERCUT CREDIBILITY OF SUCH CHARGES. PROBABLE IMPACT OF SPECIAL COMMISSION REPORT ON THE CURRENT JOCKEYING FOR LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE ANC AND ESPECIALLY ON PROSPECTS OF SO-CALLED "THIRD FORCE" REMAINS TO BE ASSESSED. HOWEVER, BY DISCREDITING KARANGA EX-ZANU MILITARY LEADERS, SPECIAL COMMISSION REPORT SEEMS LIKELY TO GIVE MODEST IF NOT NECESSARILY INTENDED BOOST TO STANDING OF TRADITIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS NKOMO AND MUZOREWA. REVELATIONS IN REPORT WILL ALSO INEVITABLY FURTHER TRIBAL RIFTS WITHIN EX-ZANU FACTION THAT COULD FURTHER WEAKEN ALREADY ERODING CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL PSOTION OF FORMER ZANU HEAD NDABANINGI SITHOLE.
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 12 APR 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D760139-0264
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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